

Message Text

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ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 EPA-04 COME-00 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY NASA/I/AADAVIS:SS
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SA:JGDARDIS
NASA/ER/BTNOLAN (DRAFT)
NASA/I/LEJONES (DRAFT)
NASA/I/WGBASTEDO
NASA/SU/GREENWOOD
EUR/CAN:DKRUSE

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P 161709Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 203018

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TSPA:OCLR

SUBJECT: CANADIAN REQUEST FOR NASA U-2 AIRCRAFT SUPPORT

REF: STATE 169221

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICES (AES), DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, DOWNSVIEW, ONTARIO, PLANS HIGH ALTITUDE BALLOON FLIGHT DURING PERIOD 20 AUGUST - 20 SEPTEMBER TO PERFORM STRATOSPHERIC RESEARCH STUDIES. DR. W.F.J. EVANS, CHIEF, AES EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES DIVISION HAS REQUESTED NASA TO SUPPORT PROJECT BY TAKING COMPLEMENTARY ATMOSPHERIC MEASUREMENTS IN REGION OF BALLOON DESCENT WITH U-2 AIRCRAFT. BALLOON DATA TO YIELD VERTICAL PROFILE OF ATMOSPHERIC CONSTITUENTS; AIRCRAFT WILL PROVIDE LONGITUDINAL PROFILE. NASA PREPARED TO MAKE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE IF PREPARATION OF INSTRUMENTATION FOR NASA SEPTEMBER OVERFLIGHT (PER UNCLASSIFIED

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REFTEL) IS COMPLETE AT TIME OF BALLOON LAUNCH AND IF

GOC APPROVES AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE. PLEASE MODIFY REFTEL TO INCLUDE REQUEST TO SUPPORT AES AND ADVISE STATUS.

2. UNDER NASA/AES COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT, PART OF BALLOON'S STRATOPROBE PAYLOAD CALIBRATED AT NASA/AMES

RESEARCH CENTER SIMULATOR FACILITY SPRING 1976. DATE OF ACTUAL LAUNCH FROM YORKTON, SASKATCHEWAN, DEPENDENT ON WIND CONDITIONS AS IS BALLOON DRIFT PATH. RANGE OF U-2 MAKES SUPPORT POSSIBLE ONLY IF DRIFT WESTWARD. ALSO, IMPROVED STRATOSPHERIC AIR SAMPLER, NOW UNDER DEVELOPMENT, IS PENDING ITEM FOR INSTRUMENT READINESS. SUPPORT POSSIBLE ONLY IF DEVELOPMENT COMPLETE AT LAUNCH TIME.

3. FLIGHT SCHEDULE: DUE TO UNCERTAINTIES DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. CURRENT BALLOON DESCENT POINT PLANNED AT 110 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE AND 51 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE. AES REQUESTS AIRCRAFT MEASUREMENTS IN REGION AND WITHIN HOURS OF BALLOON DESCENT. IF PLAN HOLDS, U-2 WOULD ENTER CANADIAN AIRSPACE AT 111 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE AND 49 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE AT 60,000 FEET; CIRCLE BALLOON TAKING MEASUREMENTS UP TO 70,000 FEET FOR APPROXIMATELY 40 MINUTES AND DEPART USA.

4. PILOT WILL FILE NORMAL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PLANS. REQUEST APPROPRIATE OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES. FYI: DR. EVANS CURRENTLY LOCATED CANADIAN TEST RANGE, PHONE NUMBER (306) 783-3242. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, STRATOSPHERE, METEOROLOGY, FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE203018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760314-0412
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760850/aaaabqus.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NASA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 169221
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2005 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN REQUEST FOR NASA U-2 AIRCRAFT SUPPORT
TAGS: TSPA, OCLR, CA, US
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006